

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-5 (canceled).

Claim 6 (currently amended): A distribution device for distributing short messages to an IP-compatible terminal, comprising:

a receiving device ~~apparatus~~, which receives a short message ~~to be sent in transmission to~~ a subscriber at a first time;

an interrogation device in communication with the receiving device, ~~apparatus which, after the arrival of the short message for the subscriber, wherein at a second time after the first time, the interrogation device requests from a registration device via a first network asks a registration device for the~~ a status of the subscriber, the status of the subscriber including a packet switched network access status and a circuit switched network access status ~~whether the subscriber is online~~; and

a control device in communication with at least one of the interrogation device and the registration device, which ~~wherein the control device evaluates the status of the subscriber and determines to at least one of forward interrogation result and forwards the short message to the subscriber at a third time and buffer or buffers the message for sending to the subscriber at a fourth time after the third time, later time, depending on the status of the subscriber from interrogation device.~~

Claim 7 (currently amended): The distribution device as claimed in claim 6, wherein the control device forwards the short message to the subscriber over ~~an IP~~ a packet switched network ~~if the registration device indicates that packet switched network access is available, the results of the interrogation device reveals that the subscriber is online.~~

Claim 8 (currently amended): The distribution device as claimed in claim 6, wherein the control device buffers the short message for the subscriber if the registration device indicates that packet switched network access and circuit switched network access are not available, the interrogation device reveals through the registration device that the subscriber is not online and has no access to a circuit switched network, the control device then the interrogation device submits a new request to the registration device ~~through the interrogation device~~ at regular intervals, and the control device forwards the short message to the subscriber as soon as the interrogation device reveals registration device indicates that the subscriber has at least one of packet switched network access and circuit switched network access. ~~is now online.~~

Claim 9 (currently amended): The distribution device as claimed in claim 6, wherein the control device forwards the short message to the subscriber via a circuit switched network if the registration device indicates that the subscriber does not have packet switched network access and the subscriber has circuit switched network access. ~~said interrogation reveals that the subscriber is not online.~~

Claim 10 (currently amended): A registration system for registering device ~~which registers the~~ a status of a subscriber in a network, connected to a distribution device, comprising:
a registration device including a first interface, the registration device storing data indicative of the status of the subscriber;

an interface connected to the a distribution device, the distribution device communicably coupled to the first interface via a first network and to an IP-compatible terminal of the subscriber via a second network, wherein the distribution device requests the status of the subscriber from the first interface prior to for distribution of a short message to an the IP-compatible terminal via the second network, wherein the first interface responds to the request of the distribution device for by providing the status of the network access of the subscriber including a packet switched network access status and a circuit switched network access status.

Claim 11 (currently amended): The registration system device ~~according to claim 10,~~ wherein the subscriber is connected to the system via a set top box communication device generally utilized for media viewing.

Claim 12 (currently amended): The registration system device according to claim 10, wherein the message is a short message containing text.

Claim 13 (currently amended): The registration system device according to claim 10, wherein the message is a multimedia message containing at least one of images or and video or both.

Claim 14 (currently amended): A communication system for ~~ensuring that transmitting short messages are not lost in a communication system and allowing the receiving of a short text message to~~ a subscriber comprising:

a set top box communication device adapted to receive messages for the subscriber via a packet switched network;

a registration device in communication with the set top box that registers whether stores data indicative of a status of the subscriber is on-line via a received from the set top box, the status of the subscriber including a packet switched network access status and a circuit switched network access status; and

a distribution center that communicates in communication with the registration device, the distribution center requesting and evaluating the status of the subscriber, which is a recipient of a received message, the distribution center when a transmitting the message via a packet switched network is being received for the subscriber to determine if the subscriber is on-line and if the subscriber has packet switched network access. is on-line then the message is send to the subscriber through an IP network.

Claim 15 (currently amended): The system according to claim 14, wherein ~~the distribution center if through the registration device determines if~~ the subscriber does not have packet switched network access, is not on-line then the distribution center buffers the short message until the subscriber obtains packet switched network access, is on-line.

Claim 16 (currently amended): The system according to claim 14, wherein the distribution center communicates at regular intervals ~~communicates~~ with the registration device

to determine ~~of if~~ the subscriber has packet switched network access is on-line in order to send the message to the subscriber via the IP-packet switched network when the subscriber obtains packet switched network access. is on-line.

Claim 17 (currently amended): The system according to claim 14, wherein the distribution center further comprises:

a receiving ~~apparatus~~ device that receives a message ~~to be sent in transmission~~ to the subscriber; and

an interrogation device ~~for communicating in communication~~ with the registration device, the interrogation device requesting from the registration device to determine whether the status of the subscriber is online or not.

Claim 18 (currently amended): The system according to claim 14, wherein the distribution center ~~through the registration device receives~~ from the registration device an IP address for the subscriber ~~and send the message via a packet switched IP network to the subscriber.~~

Claim 19 (currently amended): The system according to claim 14, wherein the subscriber ~~is connected to the system via a set top box communication device~~ is generally utilized for media viewing.

Claim 20 (previously presented): The system according to claim 14, wherein the message is a short message containing text.

Claim 21 (currently amended): The system according to claim 14, wherein the message is a multimedia message containing at least one of images or and video or both.

Claim 22 (new): The registration system according to claim 10, wherein the registration device includes a second interface that receives the status of the subscriber from the IP-compatible terminal at regular intervals.